

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks. Support for newly amended claim 1 can be found in the specification on page 1, lines 31 and 32. Support for newly added claim 21 can be found in the specification at page 1, lines 31-36.

A fee of \$50.00 for the extra claim over twenty can be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13146-00002-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/17931 (hereinafter "WO '931") (using Braun et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,521,199 as unofficial English translation (hereinafter "Braun '199")). Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Braun '199. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woole et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,687,626 (hereinafter "Woole"). Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO '931 or Braun '199. Claims 1-7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woole in view of Bisignani. The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As to Braun '199, the examiner states that the process (correctly: the regeneration process!) of Braun is carried out at a temperature between -20 and 200 °C (see claim 6 of Braun '199). This concerns only the regeneration. During the regeneration process, sulfuryl chloride fluoride could be simultaneously be produced. See Braun '199, col. 3, lines 38 to 51.

The applicant's claim 1 addresses the second step, the fluorination of sulfuryl chloride fluoride to form sulfuryl fluoride. Braun gives no details how to perform the second step; see col. 3, lines 61 - 65. Braun especially does not mention to perform it in a gas-phase reaction

step. In addition, Braun does not disclose to operate in the presence of a microporous material comprising catalyst as is required by the applicant's claimed 1.

Woole operates, as the examiner correctly recognizes at the middle of page 4 of the Office Action, between 30 to 220 °C (see col. 2, lines 16-17). The boiling point of ammonium bifluoride is 239.5 °C, (see Section 9 of Material Safety Data Sheet of Ammonium Bifluoride (see Appendix)).

Thus, Woole does not operate in a gas-phase reaction step, let alone, by utilizing HF, because (see the MSDS above, Section 10) temperatures above 300 °C are to be avoided because then, HF is liberated. So Woole by no means operates in a gas-phase reaction step or with HF.

Neither Braun nor Woole disclose to operate in the presence of a microporous material comprising catalyst as is required by the applicant's claimed 1.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

A three month extension has been paid. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13146-00002-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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